

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PRS-01 PM-04

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P 041715Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7676

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (COSGRAVE, LIAM), US, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S.-
CONDEMNATION OF FUND-RAISING.

REF: DUBLIN 372, STATE 48639

1. PARA THREE OF DUBLIN 372 WHICH RAISED THE QUESTION WITH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD USE THE OCCASION TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST FUND RAISING, SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED IN THE U.S. AS MINIMIZING OR EVEN DISMISSING THE PROBLEM.

2. WE DISCUSSED STATE REFTEL WITH GOI FONMINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEAN DONLON WHO IS IN CHARGE OF NORTHERN IRELAND MATTERS AND, AS THE SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION, IS INVOLVED IN COSGRAVE'S SPEECH WRITING FOR THE U.S. TRIP.

3. DONLON SAID THAT THEIR SOURCES IN THE U.S. HAVE NOTED THAT WHENEVER AN IRISH CABINET MINISTER SPOKE OUT PUBLICLY IN THE U.S. NAMING NORAIID AS THE FUND-RAISING ARM OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA, THEY OBSERVED A TEMPORARY BUT PERCEPTIBLE RISE IN NORAIID ACTIVITIES AND FUND RAISING LEVELS WHICH WOULD AFTER A TIME SUBSIDE. BUT THE QUESTION REMAINED WHETHER ATTACKING NORAIID DIRECTLY BY NAME WAS NEVERTHELESS WORTH THIS SHORT TERM DISADVANTAGE. THE U.S. SHOULD NOTE, DONLON ADDED, THAT IT WAS THE IRISH INTENTION THAT PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE WILL DEFINITELY HIT HARD ON VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH, THE IRA, AND AT MISGUIDED FUND-RAISING IN THE U.S. TO
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SUPPORT THE IRA AND VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH. THE ONLY QUESTION

WAS WHETHER OR NOT NORAID SHOULD BE NAMED BY NAME REPEATEDLY AS THAT FUND-RAISING ARM.

4. DONLON DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS A POSITION PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT PREPARED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. THEIR ASSESSMENT IS THAT OF THE 13 MILLION AMERICANS OF IRISH DECENT (NOTE THAT THE IRISH ARE NOT USING OUR FIGURES OF ALMOST 20 MILLION) THERE ARE ROUGHLY THREE CATEGORIES. FIRST ARE THE THOUSAND OR TWO MILITANT OR ACTIVIST NORAID SUPPORTERS WHO ARE IMPERVIOUS IN ANY CASE TO ANY MESSAGE FROM THE GOI. THEY DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC. SECOND ARE THE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND OR SO WHO ARE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN FACETS OF IRISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER (ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK, GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, ETC.). THE THIRD GROUP CONSTITUTES THE REMAINDER OF THE 13 MILLION WHO ARE AWARE OF THEIR IRISH ANCESTRY BUT WHO TAKE ONLY A GENERAL INTEREST IN THEIR HERITAGE AND ARE NORMALLY NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH CURRENT EVENTS ON THIS ISLAND.

5. DONLON CALLED ATTENTION TO COSGRAVE'S HABIT IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES TO BE LOW-KEY, MEASURED AND NON-COMBATIVE. IN SMALLER GROUPS HE IS MORE COMFORTABLE, CONVEYS A STRONG SENSE OF "BEING IN COMMAND," AND CAN BE A MOST FORCEFUL ADVOCATE FOR HIS VIEWS. ALTHOUGH THE GOI HAS NOT YET COME UP WITH AN APPROVED "POLICY" FOR COSGRAVE'S TALKS AND SPEECHES IN THE U.S., DONLON THOUGHT IT WOULD LIKELY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) AT LEAST ONE MAJOR ADDRESS IN EACH CITY WOULD INCLUDE THE CONDEMNATION OF THE IRA, VIOLENCE AND FUNDRAISING.

B) COSGRAVE WILL, IN EACH CITY, BE MEETING PRIVATELY (OR SEMI-PRIVATELY) WITH LEADERS OF THE SECOND GROUP REFERRED TO IN PARA FOUR, ABOVE. IN THESE MEETINGS HE WOULD GO MUCH FARTHER IN PRESENTING A BRIEF THAT LINKS NORAID TO THE IRA AND VIOLENCE. THE IRISH CONSIDER THIS AUDIENCE AS PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL AND IN A POSITION TO REACT FAVORABLY TO THE GOI POSITION.

6. DONLON CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE APPRECIATED THE POSITION WE PRESENTED FROM THE STATE REFTEL. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO HIM ABOUT THE PUBLIC ADDRESSES COSGRAVE WILL MAKE. SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR, AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT WE THOUGHT NORAID OUGHT TO BE SPECIFICALLY NAMED IN PUBLIC SPEECHES. HE REPEATED THE GOI'S PRESENT INCLINATION NOT TO DO SO.

7. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOI ARGUMENT THAT NORAID WOULD BE THE ONLY BENEFICIARY IN BEING SPECIFICALLY

IDENTIFIED BY NAME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, SPEECHES, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN00431
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-0194
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgpi.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DUBLIN 372, 76 STATE 48639
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S.- CONDEMNATION OF FUND-RAISING.
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, EI, NORAI, (COSGRAVE, LIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006